

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace Paragraph [0029] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0029]** Figure 19 is a perspective view of the expandable container of Figure 16 in an expanded position with the lid in the closed position;

Please replace Paragraph [0041] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0041]** The container 121 further includes a pull cord 153 threaded through holes 157 in the flap 137 and including a pull tab 161 attachable to the free end of the pull cord 153. The pull cord 153 actuates movement of the flap 137, which includes two portions 169 that fold about one another along a fold line 173. By folding in half[[,]] when moving to [[from]] the collapsed position from [[to]] the expanded position, the flap 137 moves upward toward the opening of the container 121. Because the walls 125 are inwardly directed, the flap 137 must fold so that it can fit within the collapsed container 121. Finally, the container includes a segment 165 shaped and sized for flatwise engagement with the wall 125 on the opposite end of the unfolded container 121, for securing the container walls in a continuous series, forming the container perimeter.

Please replace Paragraph [0042] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0042]** Referring now to Figure 9, another version of a collapsible container of the present invention is generally designated by the reference numeral 221. The container 221 includes panels, generally indicated by 223, which include walls 225 joined at junctures 229 and a flap 237. The container 221 functions generally as indicated above, except that the walls 225, rather than pivoting with respect to one another, are capable of bowing outward as the flap 237 is pivoted downward by a pull

cord 239, forming the container. The flap 237 is generally circular in shape, so that the bottom of the container 221 is round when in the expanded position. The top of the container 221, however, is not round, because the walls 225 are formed from a stiff material, such as cardboard, folded along the junctures 229 so that the walls bend less than [[that]] at the bottom, wherein the top of the container retains an oblong shape. The container 221 further includes a pull tab 241 attachable to the pull cord 239 and a stop 243 for arresting pivoting movement of the flap 237.

Please replace Paragraph [0044] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0044]** Another version of the container, shown in Figure 11, is generally designated by the reference numeral 271. The container includes walls 273, a flap 275 and a pull cord 277 generally as above. Moreover, the container 271 includes a ring-shaped rib 281 attachable to one of the walls 273 and pivotable to a generally horizontal position with the flap 275. The rib 281 is designed to retain the walls 273 of the container in an expanded position. The pull cord 277 is attached to both the rib 281 and the flap 275. Pulling the pull cord 277 pivots the rib 281 and flap 275 from a collapsed position, where the rib and flap lie generally parallel to the walls, to an expanded position, where the rib and flap are generally perpendicular to the walls. The container 271 further includes a lid 283, attachable to and pivotable with one of the walls 273 of the container. The container 271 further includes a pull tab 285 attachable to the pull cord 277 and a stop 287 for [[35]] arresting pivoting movement of the flap 275.

Please replace Paragraph [0046] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0046]** Turning to Figure 13, another version of the container of the present invention is indicated generally by reference numeral 321. The container includes a flap 323 that is a generally parallel extension of a

panel 327. As with the previous version, actuating a pull cord 329[[,]] expands the container 321 to an expanded position. As it expands the container, the flap 323 creates an interference fit between itself and a juncture 333 disposed between two adjacent panels 337, thereby securing the container in the expanded position. Only by disengaging the flap 323 from the interference fit with the juncture 333 can the user alter the container 321 from its expanded position. In addition, the container 321 [[312]] includes two panels 337' sized and shaped in an outline reminiscent of a recognizable object, such as a fish, diamond ring, etc., so that the container shape is suggestive of the object. The container 321 further includes a pull tab 339 attachable to the pull cord 329.

Please replace Paragraph [0047] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0047]** Referring now to Figure 14, another version of the container of the present invention is indicated generally by reference numeral 345. The container 345 includes panels 347, each extendable outward from a central panel 347', or bottom, of the container. These panels 347 comprise the sides of the container 345 when in the expanded position. As depicted in Figure 14, web panels 353 bridge the gaps between each pair of adjacent panels 347. A pull cord 351 is threadably connectable with at least two, and preferably each of the panels 347. The pull cord 351 includes two free ends extendable from the container 345 for pulling simultaneously to shorten the length of cord threading through the container, thereby expanding the panels 347 from the collapsed position to the expanded position. Preferably, the web panels 353 of the container 345 are directed inward to protect an article [[30]] which may be positioned within the container, such as a fragile glass ornament or statuette. The web panels 353 may also be directed outward or removed entirely without departing from the scope of the present invention. Here the pull cord 351

may be formed of an attractive material because a portion of the cord is visible while the container is in use.

Please replace Paragraph [0048] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0048]** Referring now to Figure 15, another version of the container of the present invention is indicated generally by reference numeral 371. The container includes multiple walls 375 joined at multiple junctions 377, forming a continuous circuit of walls in a circuitous arrangement. Six walls are depicted in Figure 15, although fewer or greater number of walls (e.g., 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, etc.) are also contemplated as within the scope of the present invention. The container 371 further includes a flap 379 attachable to at least one of the walls 375 for pivotable movement with respect to the walls. As with the previous versions, the container 371 is capable of lying substantially flat in a collapsed position and expanding to an expanded position. In addition, the container 371 has wall extensions 381 extending upward from the top of each wall 375, or from at least some of the walls. These extensions 381 are movable relative to the walls 375 along fold lines 385. Each of the extensions 381 includes a hole 389, through which a pull cord 393 passes. The pull cord 393 additionally passes through[[.]] the container 371 and attaches to the flap 379. From the collapsed position, when a pull tab 397 attached to the end of the pull cord 393 is pulled, the extensions 381 are drawn closer together and the flap 379 is drawn upward toward the walls of the container 371. As with the previous versions, this causes the container 371 to transform from its collapsed position to its expanded position. Once expanded, the flap 379 is positioned perpendicular to the walls 375 of the container 371 and the wall extensions 381 form a cone-shaped top of the container 371. The container further includes stops 401 as disclosed in the previous versions. Moreover, stops 401' are attached to the inner surface of the walls 375 of the container 371 to limit upward movement of the flap

379 as it is drawn into the container by the pull cord 393. These stops 401, 401' cooperate to create a notch 405 that helps hold the flap in the appropriate position. The container 371 further includes windows 409 cut from the walls of the container that allow viewing into the inside of the container.

Please replace Paragraph [0056] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0056]** The expansion of the container 521 can also create ~~creates~~ an interference fit between the flap 537 and at least one juncture 529 between two adjacent walls 525. This interference fit frictionally maintains the container 521 in the expanded position.

Please replace Paragraph [0064] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0064]** The cord can be removably ~~removable~~ engaged to the container by positioning the cord within at least one slot defined by at least one of the walls of the container. Additionally, pulling the cord coupled to the flap can also create an interference fit between the flap and at least one juncture between two adjacent walls of the container. Once created, this interference fit can frictionally maintain the container in the expanded position.